



The Young Poets Society at Access Art Gallery shows that young people are still inspired

When most think of poetry readings, a bygone era comes to mind and it is hard to imagine young people these days reciting much beyond rap lyrics. However, Friday evening, May 12 proved that there are still those of the up and coming generation enthusiastic about this form of creative expression.

The Young Poets Society of Aruba, sponsored by the Pro Crea Foundation had an excellent venue in Access Art Gallery for their first Poet's Jam. Six fledgling poets ranging from sixteen to very early twenties proved that appreciation for the art of poetry, and the drive to create it, is alive and well in Aruba.

This group of aspiring poets have been meeting at the Access Art Gallery in Oranjestad every Friday evening, under the tutelage of Valerie Heronimo, who confesses to be inspired by the young poets to start writing again herself.

Friday evening featured the works of Wilfred, Beach Christie, Adriaan, May, and Merel, who moved an appreciative audience with the maturity of their creations, and their passionate recital of their work.

Surrounded by the beautiful paintings of Nancy Hernandez that are now on display at the gallery, the young poets often worked their way through the audience, making the recital a very tactile experience. Noted artist and musician Mo Mohammad and his group accompanied the poetry with his innovative percussion. The mood was set with subdued colored lighting and candelabras, and the audience was drawn into the world and imagination of these young people.

During the past few months, when they gathered at the museum, the members of the Young Poets Society received assignments from Valerie that tested and inspired them. Often the form of inspiration was music that was played during their sessions, and the art that was on display in the gallery. The young poets compose their verse in a variety of languages, most often English, but also Papiamentu, or a mix of the various languages spoken on the island. Valerie has set up a website on the internet where they post their works. Here is an example from Wilfred Jansen:

So down, again

I've not been aware that it could get again some more

I wasn't afraid but it happened

It happens and I am afraid again more than before

Somewhere else I couldn't imagine,

So alone again I feel, the feelings eat me

Carrying me down to your stomach again

I hurt, U, again

Less again, nothing in the end makes me more

So little again

Everything makes the everything else move

No matter if you're standing all around

You fall and it always is the same, so afraid again

The Young Poets Society consists of more than Friday night's performers, and any are welcome. After the initial readings, the microphone was open to anyone from the audience that cared to share their work, and well-known local poet Charles Croes did a turn on the mike.

The newest work and progress of the society can be enjoyed at the website:

www.youngpoetsociety.blogspot.com, which has links to other creative sites where the poets share their work and their thoughts. It was a revelation to see that the art of classic poetic composition and expression is not dead, but thriving amongst Aruba's young adults!

Freedom

There is magic behind every door
Question is, do you have the key?
Do you know which one to open
To set the power free?
Open to a world where you are the endangered species
Lifeways of others tear you down
So you finally know the value
Of your freedom
And autumn leaf free-falling down
A bird sky-diving beyond our visuals
A beast screaming beyond our sound
A lonely boy looking at a picture of his mother...
What are you waiting for?
There's magic behind every door
Do you have the guts to open one
Or are you gonna keep the secret?

-April 28th, 2006

Merel Lamboo